

1	2	3**	4*	5	6*	7*	8	9*	10*
6.	Haryana	0.124	16.064	24110	3.352	196	12	3.080	22.5
7.	Rajasthan	0.198	8.436	24254	3.173	9523	42	14.498	26.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.022	8.562	2354	2.355	222	24	8.026	18.94

** In Hectares

* In Crores

[English]

West Asia Peace Process

2479. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had responded to the unfortunate set back to the peace process in West Asia consequent to the opening by the Israeli Government of the tunnel under the Masjid-e-Aqsa in Jerusalem;

(b) if so, when was the response made;

(c) the details of the response;

(d) to whom the response was communicated; and

(e) the other efforts made recently, by the Government towards the resolution of disputes between Israel and Palestine?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). The Government issued an official statement on 27 September 1996, a copy of which is enclosed in statement.

(d) Besides the above, India's Acting Representative to the Palestinian authority, in Gaza, called on President Yassar Arafat and conveyed to him India's response reiterating India's support for the Palestinian cause, and for the Middle East Peace Process. The Indian delegation also participated in the Security Council debate on the issue and made a statement.

(e) The Government have extended unqualified support to the Middle East Peace Process, aimed, amongst other, at the resolution of the issues between Israel and the Palestinian; and have recently urged again all parties concerned, in order to make further expeditious progress in the process, to intensify their efforts in this regard.

STATEMENT**Official Statement****Violent Clashes in the West Bank and Gaza**

Government of India is deeply concerned at the recent serious incidents of violence in the West Bank

and Gaza caused by the action of the Israeli authorities of opening a tunnel beneath Al Haram Al Sharif (the Temple Mount) in East Jerusalem. We are horrified at the tragic loss of several innocent lives and the large scale injuries following violent clashes. The current situation underlines the need for immediate and effective measures to end the violence and create a climate which would enable purposeful negotiations, based on a recognition of the underlying causes of the conflict.

These developments also serve to emphasise the moral, legal and humanitarian imperatives of the Middle East peace process, and the necessity of building further on the agreements and understandings already reached, in order to move rapidly towards a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East, on the basis of the principles and time schedules already agreed on. India urges all parties concerned to intensify their efforts towards realising these objectives, keeping in view that durable peace and stability in Middle East requires addressing the Palestinian issue.

Government of India's concern and views have been conveyed to the Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

27th September, 1996

Rengali Project

2480. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Rengali multi purpose major irrigation project in Orissa has since commenced;

(b) if so, the progress made so far including the cost of the project;

(c) whether Government are aware that it has not become possible to utilise the water of Rengali in the drought areas for which it was originally scheduled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to make proper utilisation of Rengali water specially in the drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Rengali Multipurpose project envisages construction of a Dam and the Power